

[English]

Gauge Conversion

1478. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Nizamabad metre gauge line and allocation of more funds for Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad new broad gauge rail line were accepted and included in the Railway Budget for 1997-98;

(b) if so, the main reasons for delay in taking up the above work immediately;

(c) whether Railways have been asked to take up the conversion of Secunderabad-Mudkhed metre gauge via Nizamabad;

(d) if so, the time by which the work on this line is likely to be started;

(e) the allocation made for laying Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad new broad gauge line during 1997-98;

(f) the progress made on the above rail line so far; and

(g) the time by which the above rail line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The work on Peddapalli-Karimnagar is in good progress. The work of Mudkhed-Nizamabad gauge conversion can be taken up only after the requisite clearances have been received. Action for obtaining the same is already in progress.

(e) Rs. 5.00 crores.

(f) 24%.

(g) By the end of the Tenth Plan period.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to Rural Development Agencies

1479. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any uniformity in the allocation of funds to the rural development agencies and Zila Parishads;

(b) if so, the average allocation of funds made to each rural development agency in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(c) whether the Union Government keep any control over income/expenditure of the rural development agency; and

(d) if so, the details of the procedure followed for monitoring the utilisation of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Central allocation of funds to States/UTs under various Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes is made on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country.

(b) These programmes are not being implemented in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) and (d) Various programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment are regularly monitored. The monitoring mechanism, inter alia, consists of obtaining periodical progress reports/returns, financial returns/audit report, intensive field inspections, reviews and monitoring by Committees and by senior officers with the State Secretaries, Commissioners etc. Besides, the Government monitors and reviews implementation of programmes in various States through Central Level Co-ordination Committees, State Level Co-ordination Committees and at district level by the Governing body of District Rural Development Agencies.

[English]

PBX at Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah

1480. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install a PBX at Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah and provide telephones in all rooms for the convenience of boarders; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Since installation of a PBX will involve telephone wiring for each room and entail heavy expenditure, two numbers PCO Booths of DOT (CCB Type) have been provided at each of the floors of Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah i.e. ground floor, first floor and second floor, for the convenience of the boarders.

Reservation to Passengers

1481. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that great difficulty is being experienced by the passengers particularly in the summer season in getting reservation in spite of running special trains;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide railway reservation to all passengers; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Some passengers do remain on the waiting list in important and more convenient trains during rush period like summer, pooja and winter vacations.

(b) and (c) Position of waiting list passengers is monitored on day-to-day basis and additional coaches wherever justified and feasible are attached to clear the rush. Besides, special trains are also run to clear the extra rush subject to availability of resources.

Export Capacity of Steel

1482. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether export capacity of steel in India has set to rise to 43 million tonnes by the turn of this century from the present level of around 28 million tonnes;

(b) if so, whether the proposals to raise it further to 57 million tonnes by the year 2005 A.D. have also been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have expressed concern over the low levels of steel consumption in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the main reasons for low consumption of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) During the year 1996-97, export of finished carbon steel from India was about 1.62 million tonnes. The Working Group on Iron and Steel industry for the IXth Five Year Plan has projected an export potential of 6 million tonnes of finished carbon steel by 2001-02, which is the terminal year of the IXth Plan and an export potential of 9 million tonnes has been projected by 2006-07, the terminal year of the Xth Plan.

(d) to (f) Government is aware of the low level of per capita crude steel consumption in the country which was only 23.9 kgs. in 1994 against a world average of 133 kgs. The consumption of steel is related to the stage of economic and industrial development of a country. Following economic liberalisation, the overall economic growth is likely to step up steel consumption.

Development Works

1483. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Government about the development works to be undertaken in telecommunications and postal areas in Gujarat during the current year;

(b) if so, the details and names thereof;

(c) whether the works undertaken last year are still incomplete; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

For Telecommunications : There is a plan to provide 208000 new telephone connections in Gujarat during 1997-98. The area-wise details are given in Statement I enclosed.

For Postal Sector : The complete information is given in Statement II enclosed.

(c) and (d) *For Telecommunications* : The names of Telephone Exchanges planned for last year in Gujarat which are still incomplete alongwith reasons for delay are given in Statement III enclosed.

For Postal Sector : Only Post Office buildings at Raigadh and Viramgam and staff quarters at Modasa could not be completed by the concerned agencies.

Statement-I

*Statement to laid on the Table of Lok Sabha
Vide Parts (A to D) of Unstarred
Question No. 1483 For 31.07.97.*

Plan for DELS During 1997-98

S.No.	Name of SSA	DELS
1.	Ahmedabad	50000
2.	Baroda	20000
3.	Rajkot	10000
4.	Surat	20000
5.	Nadiad	12000
6.	Mehsana	10000
7.	Bhavnagar	16000
8.	Bhuj	11000
9.	Valsad	13000
10.	Bharuch	8000
11.	Godhra	4000
12.	Himatnagar	6000
13.	Jamnagar	5000
14.	Junagadh	11000
15.	Palanpur	5000
16.	Surendranagar	4000
17.	Amreli	3000
Total		208000